

Village of Pentwater

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(231) 869-8301 Website: www.pentwatervillage.org

Regular Meeting of Village Council MEETING MINUTES JULY 13, 2020 VIA ELECTRONIC ZOOM

I. CALL TO ORDER

President Jeff Hodges called the regular meeting of the Pentwater Village Council to order at 6:03 pm. from the Community Room at Village Hall via a Zoom electronic meeting.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL

Present: Michelle Angell-Powell, Pam Burdick, Jared Griffis Dan Nugent Don Palmer, Claudia Ressel-Hodan, Jeff Hodges.

Absent: None

Also, present: Village Manager, Chris Brown; Clerk/Treasurer, Rande Listerman; Chief of Police, Laude Hartrum; Village Attorney, Brian Monton.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS – On the agenda

President Jeff Hodges – It has continued to be very challenging for everyone in the village and our country during this time. I hope we can continue to exercise patience. We should separate our disagreements from how we feel about each person as an individual. We can disagree on things without making it personal. Hopefully, we can have conversations and come to a resolution that is in the best interest of the whole community and do that while respecting our constitution.

Ron Christians – Good evening everyone Ron is a candidate for Oceana County Commission District No. 1. Ron looks forward to meeting more of you and would appreciate your support. pamphlets are available regarding his campaign.

Dean Gustafson, County Commission – Is supporting Ron Christians for the County Commission. He will represent Pentwater. I will be a commissioner through the end of the year. The Ambulance Millage is needed without the supplement of the millage it will run at a lost. Please support the renewal of the Ambulance Millage.

Eva Gregwer - Chamber of Commerce - The annual Homecoming Celebration, organized by the Pentwater Chamber of Commerce, draws an enormous crowd estimated at more than 10,000 people into the Village of Pentwater. It has become the largest event in Pentwater, leading thousands of visitors to travel “home” from all around the region. Locals and visitors gather to watch the fireworks display, participate in the grand parade and enjoy other traditional and family-friendly activities in the village.

After evaluating a range of options for safely holding the 90th Annual Homecoming Celebration, with an eye on public health and safety in our community, the Pentwater Chamber of Commerce determined that the right decision, though it is tough, was to cancel the Grand Parade and Fireworks due to the restrictions brought forth by the State of Michigan in light of the

coronavirus pandemic. Although guidance from the DNR, State of Michigan, local Police & Fire Departments and health officials played a role in the decision-making process, the main motivating factor was a concern to protect our community from the spread of the coronavirus. Additionally, they do not feel it is appropriate to solicit donations from businesses who are already experiencing financial strain while facing an uncertain future.

“Celebrating Homecoming with the entire community is one of my favorite experiences of the year,” Executive Director Eva Gregwer said. “Many people have gone to this event year after year since they were young, and they now bring their own children and grandchildren to it. I am disappointed that we’re unable to have some of our favorite activities during this event, which has been a tradition for me and so many friends and neighbors. I am sure that everyone shares this disappointment. In the end, the safety of our community and our families is more important than all other considerations.”

Gregwer, Event Coordinator Ashlyn McDonald, and the Pentwater Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors did not make this decision lightly. It came only after seriously exploring alternative sites and options that could hold an amazing Fireworks show, while also allowing viewers to practice social distancing.

As part of the process, they submitted the “COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan” to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for the use of Charles Mears State Park. Additionally, the Pentwater Chamber of Commerce considered launching the fireworks from a barge in Pentwater Lake, various downtown locations, larger field locations and local marinas. Working with the Pentwater Fire Department and Police Department, the team vetted possible alternative sites. Ultimately, though the locations had advantages, the event committee concluded the risk to life, property and the environment would be too great.

The Pentwater Chamber of Commerce would like to thank the community for its patience as it reviewed the situation and explored alternative options for holding the show. They also thank the local police and fire departments for thoroughly vetting the possibilities.

“We should continue to celebrate our Village and its traditions with our friends and families. We are already working behind the scenes to deliver an even bigger fireworks display in 2021.” Gregwer said.

Despite the cancellation of the traditional Fireworks display and Grand Parade, the Pentwater Chamber is moving forward with the 90th Annual Homecoming Celebration. They will continue to host this event, although some activities may have a different look this year. The Chamber is listening to feedback from visitors and community members while also keeping in mind health and safety concerns. They will continue to follow the State of Michigan’s Executive Order, along with the DHD #10 and CDC Guidelines. Gregwer states; “We all have the same goal, to make Homecoming the best it can be during these times.”

Trustee Don Palmer – Thank you Eva

V. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

President Hodges requested an approval of the agenda. *Motion* Ressel-Hodan, supported by Burdick to approve the agenda with one change, Remove Item K. Fireworks Permit Under New Business.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Angell-Powell, Burdick, Griffis, Nugent, Ressel-Hodan, Palmer and Hodges.

NAYS: 0. ABSENT: 0. Motion approved.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of Minutes: June 8 & Special Council Meeting June 16, 2020 via Zoom.
- B. Disbursements Village: Accounts Payable - \$192,566.83 Payroll - \$87,514.15
- C. Disbursements from Township Fire Department – \$7,760.13.
- D. Commission & Board Reports: Planning Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals & DDA.
- E. Requests for Village Green Property use:

Motion by Angell-Powell second by Ressel-Hodan to approve the consent agenda items as presented.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Angell Powell, Burdick, Griffis, Nugent, Ressel-Hodan, Palmer and Hodges.

NAYS: 0. ABSENT: 0. Consent agenda items approved.

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

VIII. VILLAGE DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Reports are in the meeting packet and posted on www.pentwatervillage.org.

- A. Village Manager - Report submitted in writing.
- B. Clerk/Treasurer - Report submitted in writing.
Motion by Palmer, second by Griffis to approve the financials as presented.
ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Angell-Powell, Burdick, Griffis, Nugent, Ressel-Hodan, Palmer and Hodges.
NAYS: 0. ABSENT: 0. Motion approved.
- C. Police Chief - Report submitted in writing.
- D. Fire Chief - Report submitted in writing.
- E. Zoning Administrator - Report submitted in writing.
- F. Parks & Rec Director - Report submitted in writing.

IX. PUBLIC HEARING

None.

X. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Building & Grounds - (2) reports submitted.
Discussion was held regarding the change in the minutes for committee reports. The clerk or recording secretary will note the committee's recommendations in the minutes without, being in the form of a motion. Council will then have the opportunity to have a discussion at the full council meeting if it is needed.
- B. Finances - No meeting, no report.

- C. Ordinances - Report submitted in writing.
- D. Personnel - No Meeting, no report.
- E. Planning/Economic Development - No meeting, verbal report.
Chairperson Ressel-Hodan shared she will be a representative on Jodi Nichols team for Oceana County in picking the grant recipients for the new grant available to the Downtown Business Owners. She has no conflict of interest and encourages everyone eligible to apply. This grant has more funds available and notification of the award will be at the end of August or early September.
- F. Services - No meeting, no report.

XI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. 3rd Street Lift Station Generator.
Motion by Palmer, second by Angell-Powell to approve the quote from Cummins Sales and Service – East Region for the 3rd Street Lift Station Generator in the amount of \$17,300 plus the cost of installation.
ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Angell-Powell, Burdick, Griffis, Nugent, Ressel-Hodan, Palmer and Hodges. NAYS: 0. ABSENT: 0. Motion approved.
- B. Lowell Street Sanitary Improvement Project.
Motion by Palmer, second by Griffis to approve the bid from Ken Adams & Sons for the Lowell Street Sanitary Improvement Project in the amount of \$39,750.00.
ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Angell-Powell, Burdick, Griffis, Nugent, Ressel-Hodan, Palmer and Hodges. NAYS: 0. ABSENT: 0. Motion approved.

XII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. C2AE Payment Application – Marina Electrical Work.
Motion by Ressel-Hodan, second by Palmer to approve the payment application for C2AE in the amount of \$20,107.80.
ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Angell-Powell, Burdick, Griffis, Nugent, Ressel-Hodan, Palmer and Hodges. NAYS: 0. ABSENT: 0. Motion approved.
- B. Proposal for Update of Michigan Wellhead Protection Program.
Motion by Palmer second by Ressel-Hodan to approve the proposal from Fleis and Vandenbrink for an update to the Wellhead Protection Program.
ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Angell-Powell, Burdick, Griffis, Nugent, Ressel-Hodan, Palmer and Hodges. NAYS: 0. ABSENT: 0: Motion approved.
- C. Solid Waste Ordinance.
Motion by Palmer second by Burdick to approve the Ordinance No. 2020 – 1 Solid Waste as written.
ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Angell-Powell, Burdick, Griffis, Nugent, Ressel-Hodan, Palmer and Hodges. NAYS: 0. ABSENT: 0. Motion approved.

D. ORV Ordinance.

Motion by Angell-Powell second by Ressel-Hodan to approve the Ordinance No. 2020 – 2 after discussion with the Village Attorney Brian Monton regarding Section #9, 74.07 Enforcement which included trooper or agents from the Michigan State Police of Oceana County Sheriff's Office.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Angell-Powell, Burdick, Griffis, Nugent, Ressel-Hodan, and Hodges. NAYS: Palmer. ABSENT: 0. Motion approved 6 - 1.

E. Planning Commission Appointment

Motion by Ressel-Hodan, second by Palmer to approve the Village President Jeff Hodges's appointment of Mary Temple to the Planning Commission with a term Expiring on July 2023.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Angell-Powell, Burdick, Griffis, Nugent, Ressel-Hodan, Palmer and Hodges. NAYS: 0. ABSENT: 0. Motion approved.

F. 65 South Hancock - New Village Hall.

Motion by Ressel-Hodan, second by Angell-Powell to approve Jeremy Horton finishing the design for the New Village Hall which will include the change to the Clerk/Treasurer's office space to have higher walls for privacy and sound proofing.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Angell-Powell, Burdick, Griffis, Nugent, Ressel-Hodan, Palmer and Hodges. NAYS: 0. ABSENT: 0. Motion approved.

G. 327 South Hancock - Current Community Hall.

Discussion was held regarding the recommendation from the Building & Grounds Committee to set a joint meeting date with the Pentwater Township Board to discuss the how to proceed with 327 South Hancock.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Angell-Powell, Burdick, Griffis, Nugent, Ressel-Hodan, Palmer and Hodges. NAYS: 0. ABSENT: 0. Motion approved.

H. Pentwater Friendship Center.

Motion by Angell-Powell second by Palmer to approve the acceptance of the \$10,000 from Pentwater Township towards operation costs of the Pentwater Friendship Center for the 2020/2021 Fiscal Year.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Angell-Powell, Burdick, Griffis, Nugent, Ressel-Hodan, Palmer and Hodges. NAYS: 0. ABSENT: 0. Motion approved.

I. 1st Quarter Budget Amendments Resolution No. 2020-07-12.

Motion by Palmer, second by Griffis to approve Resolution # 2020 -07-12 1st Quarter Budget Amendments as presented.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Angell-Powell, Burdick, Griffis, Nugent, Ressel-Hodan, Palmer and Hodges. NAYS: 0. ABSENT:0. Motion approved.

J. Hazard Pay for Law Enforcement Officers – First Responders Hazard Pay Premium Grant Program.

Motion by Angell-Powell, second by Palmer to approve the Hazard Pay for Law Enforcement Officers in the amount of \$1,000.00 with over 3000 hours of time worked to Chief Laude Hartrum, Office Alexander Schultz and Officer Amanda Payne. Plus,

\$500.00 for Officers over 1000 hours worked, Officer Dalton Schaffer and Alan Snow.
ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Angell-Powell, Burdick, Griffis, Nugent, Ressel-Hodan, Palmer and Hodges. NAYS: 0. ABSENT: 0. Motion approved.

XIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Trustee Claudia Ressel-Hodan – I want to thank the business owners who have all along been putting the public safety first. As difficult as it is to follow the rules set forth, most have shown sincere concern for the public. I also want to thank the Chamber for making difficult decisions and at every step put public safety first. I would like to say in my view, as a Village Trustee, we are at our best, when we lead by example and I encourage all of us to do so. Thank you.

Cathy Cromb, 91 West Lowell – I would like to know why the trailer is still sitting down on 2nd Street? It has been there for over 2 weeks.

President Jeff Hodges – I have about (4) more meetings left. I am not sure if there will be anymore left for me. I felt it was disheartening that the City of Portland leaders were not allowed to determine if their town could have a 4th of July Parade and do it safely instead they were served with a Cease and Desist order. However, if they wanted to have a protest or March they could do that. We have freedom of democracy we can express ourselves, but it gets troubling to me that celebrating America is not allowed but tearing down America is ok as long as it's a permitted protest.

Our employees are essential services and they did a great job. Early on the Village Manager and the staff were instructed it was ok to work without masks. We limited our staff and followed all of our Governors Executive Orders. Now we are told that we need to wear masks. When we had staff that needed to be tested, they had to wait more than (3) days and could not get a test. As a Village we had to instruct them to go to their own doctor just to get a test and we would reimburse the medical costs. This potentially put everyone in harm's way. We have an incredible Village staff and to think their safety was put at risk. People do have rights and freedoms and just to be told to follow anything that someone tells you is a scary thing in history. Thank you for listening.

Trustee Jared Griffis – Well said.

XIV. CLOSED SESSION:

None

XV. ADJOURNMENT

Hodges adjourn the meeting 8:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Rande Listerman, MiCPT, CPFA, CPFIM
Clerk/Treasurer

Date